

★ news release

Evans - 343-5634

NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION PRESENTS REFUGE AREA TO INTERIOR

The property is on Lake Erie, seven miles east of Toledo. It is valued at more than \$1 million.

In accepting the land and facilities, Secretary Udall noted that the occasion marked the third time in little more than a year that the Foundation has made land available for establishment of National Wildlife Refuges. The other two areas are the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey and the Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge in Florida.

The Club property has been managed as a waterfowl marsh area since 1882. Its ten member-owners last year presented the land and buildings to the Foundation.

The former owners are: George M. Humphrey of Cleveland, Ohio, former Secretary of the Treasury; G. W. Humphrey, Warren Bicknell, Jr., Elton Hoyt III, R. L. Ireland, John Sherwin, Joseph H. Thompson and John C. Virden, all of Cleveland; and Melville H. Ireland and George H. Love of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Cedar Point is a natural marsh, intermingled with sloughs and some timber and cropland. It lies behind a sand barrier beach fronting on Lake Erie. The property will be developed further and administered as a refuge by Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

The property is a concentration point for mallards, black ducks, canvas-backs, redheads, pintails, widgeon, blue and green winged teal and other species of waterfowl.

Approximately 300 species of birds have been seen at Cedar Point, including such rare or unusual species as the western kingbird, yellow-headed blackbirds, Le Conte's sparrows, magpies, cattle egrets, Hudsonian curlews or whimbrels, marbled godwits, dowitchers, all three species of phalaropes, several scoters, and brant. In addition there is a great variety of plant life and mammals, including deer, raccoon, mink, muskrat, opossum, woodchucks and gray and red fox squirrels.

The new refuge will provide outdoor recreation opportunities for residents of the surrounding area, which includes several large cities. The refuge already is popular among birdwatchers, and the Bureau expects that public fishing and hunting will be permitted to an extent that will not interfere with the basic refuge purposes of the area.

x x x